Research exercise: Human Trafficking: An Explanation of Bonded Labor

Lauren C. Hirsch
University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu

Jane Littlefield
University of Dayton, stander@udayton.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters

Recommended Citation
http://ecommons.udayton.edu/stander_posters/111
Bonded Labor
Jane Littlefield & Lauren Hirsch
Advisor: Anthony Talbott

What is Bonded Labor?
- Also known as “debt bondage” or indentured servitude
- One form of force or coercion in the use of a bond or debt
- Prohibited under U.S. law by its Spanish name peonage
- Traffickers or recruiters unlawfully exploit an initial debt the worker assumed as part of the terms of employment

Is Bonded Labor New?
- Has existed for hundreds of years
- In South Asia it is rooted in the caste system
- Debt bondage was also used as a means of trapping indentured laborers into working on plantations in Africa, the Caribbean and South-East Asia, following the abolition of the slave trade.

Who are the Bonded Laborers?
- Entire families kept like cattle on farms in India, Pakistan and Nepal; migrant agricultural workers forced to remain on ranches in Brazil; and the organized export of women into domestic and sexual slavery in Europe.
- Bonded labor is expanding due to poverty and the global demand for sources of cheap, expendable labor.

What is Modern Day Slavery?
A slave is someone who is:
- Forced to work
- Owned or controlled by an employer
- Dehumanized, treated as a commodity, bought and sold like property
- Physically constrained or restrictions on freedom of movement

Why Does Slavery Exist?
- Poverty
- Lack of education
- Lack of law enforcement

Direct vs. Intergenerational Bonded Labor
Direct:
- Child’s labor is directly pledged as a security for a loan
Intergenerational:
- Transmitted after death of a parent

Indications of Bonded Labor
- Child is in custody of a non-family member
- Child performs work that financially benefits someone outside the child’s family
- No option of leaving

Strategies to Combat Bonded Labor
A multidimensional approach is needed:
- Eliminate starting from grassroots
- More action from government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Education and vocational training
- Provide poor families with alternative sources for small consumption loans

Estimated number of child workers

215 Million

Estimated number of people in forced labor in the Asian-Pacific region, majority are in debt bondage

9.3 Million

Poverty
Lack of education
Lack of law enforcement

2018 estimate of number of child workers

2018 estimate of number of people in forced labor in the Asian-Pacific region, majority are in debt bondage

2018 estimate of number of people in forced labor in the Asian-Pacific region, majority are in debt bondage